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SHORT COMMUNICATION

Anitys rubens (Hoffmann, J. J.) (Coleoptera: Anobiidae) new to Gloucestershire, and other deadwood beetles from Sherborne Park.—Sherborne Park (SP 1715) was first visited by the National Trust's Biological Survey Team in 1985, prior to its acquisition, and when little deadwood was available for investigation. Despite this, a few interesting deadwood Coleoptera were found, including *Abraeus granulum* Er. (Alexander, 1987) (still the only record for the county), and *Thanasimus formicarius* (L.). Since the Trust's acquisition, fallen trees and major limbs have largely been left *in situ*, and a return visit by the Survey Team on 24.viii.1992 found a much richer deadwood fauna than had been expected. One split fallen oak had exposed its well red-rotted heartwood and dead *Anitys rubens* were plentiful amongst the powdery rot. The red-rot was due to the fungus *Laetiporus sulphureus* (Bull. ex Fr.) which was extensively developed in the tree. *Anitys* was previously unknown in the county (Atty, 1983).

Under bark on the same tree was a specimen of another rare deadwood beetle, *Lyctus brunneus* (Steph.); interestingly, the only wild record for the county, as Atty (1983) gives only a 40-year-old record from Gloucester, where presumably it occurred as a timber pest. Other deadwood beetles found within the parkland on the same date included *Sinodendron cylindricum* (L.), *Ctesias serra* (F.), *Orchesia undulata* Kraatz, *Mycetophagus piceus* (F.), *Eledona agricola* (Herbst) and *Prionychus ater* (F.). *Triplax russica* (L.) had been found on the bracket fungus *Inonotus hispidus* (Bull. ex Fr.) growing on an old ash close by on 16.vii.1992.

The estate includes another historic parkland, Lodge Park (SP1412), and this also holds an interesting deadwood fauna. The 1985 survey noted *Mycetophagus atomarius* (F.) and *Anaglyptus mysticus* (L.), while a visit in 1990 yielded *Bitoma crenata* (F.), *Pediacus dermestoides* (F.), *Ctesias serra*, *Tetratoma fungorum* F. and *Thanasimus formicarius*.

Sherborne Park was apparently developed from an extensive area of pasture woodland in the late 16th century, while Lodge Park was enclosed in the early 17th century and incorporates part of an ancient wood. Thus a long and unbroken history of old trees is clearly the case for both sites and ties in well with the unusually rich deadwood fauna.—Keith N. A. Alexander, National Trust, 33 Sheep Street, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 1QW.

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